

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 13-22 are amended, Claim 12 is cancelled and Claim 23 is added by the present response.

Support for amendments to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed, at least in Figures 2 and 7 and pages 28-29. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title was objected to as non-descriptive; Claims 12-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as non-statutory; Claims 1-9 and 11-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Morita (U.S. Pat. No. 2002/0054326); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Morita in view of Kimura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,226,097).

With respect to the rejection of Claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as non-statutory, Claim 12 has been cancelled and claims 13-21 have been amended to depend from Claim 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to Claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §101, be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the title, the title has been amended to better reflect the features recited in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Morita, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites

An image forming apparatus that includes service modules for performing system side processes on image formation, wherein applications can be added to the image forming apparatus separately from the service modules, the image forming apparatus comprising:

an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information.

Claim 22 recites similar features and Claim 23 recites at least the above noted features.

Morita describes a compound machine that includes a platform that is formed by the common system service and a general purpose OS similar to the claimed invention. However, Morita does not describe or suggest an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information.

The outstanding Action takes the position on page 4 that the location recited in Claim 1 is equivalent to the memory address recite in paragraph 0097 of Morita, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the recited location is a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications. In contrast, the address on memory recited in paragraph 0097 of Morita is referring the memory address where the scanned *image data* is stored. Clearly, the memory address in Morita is not equivalent to the location of an auxiliary storage device which stores applications of Claim 1.

In addition, in Morita applications are launched from onboard flash memory.¹ In contrast, Claim 1 recites that an application is launched from an *auxiliary storage device* according to accessed launch selection information, the launch selection information including at least the location of the of the auxiliary storage device that stores the application.

¹ See page 3, lines 4-9 present disclosure. See Figure 9 of Morita.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and similarly Claim 22, patentably distinguishes over Morita.

In addition, Claim 23, and similarly Claim 2, recites that the auxiliary storage device corresponds to a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus.

In other words, in Morita applications are stored in onboard flash memory while in the claimed invention additional applications are stored on auxiliary storage devices such as devices that are removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling the image forming apparatus (as would have to be done in order to remove the flash memory of the system of Morita).²

Thus, Morita does not describe or suggest the auxiliary storage device, recited in present independent claims, that corresponds to a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the above noted reasons, Claim 23 and Claim 2 also patentably distinguish over Morita.

In addition, the further cited Kimura reference does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Morita with respect to the above noted features.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 22 and 23, and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Morita and Kimura considered individually or in combination.

² See page 3, lines 4-9 present disclosure.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance.

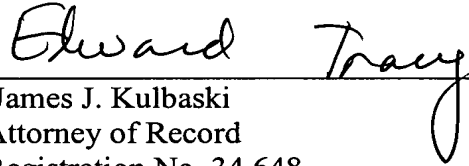
Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

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Edward W. Tracy
Registration No. 47,998